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November 17, 2009

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Supervisors Ridley-Thomas, Yaroslavsky Move to Strengthen County Efforts to Deliver Permanent, Supportive Housing Services for the Homeless

They call for a collaborative effort to sustain the County's successful initiative to reduce the numbers of homeless individuals and families

LOS ANGELES – Supervisors Mark Ridley-Thomas and Zev Yaroslavsky today called for a collaborative effort between County departments and the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority to strengthen the County's ability to oversee countywide homeless services for homeless people and families seeking safe and permanent housing.

As part of their joint motion, the Supervisors urged the Departments of Health Services, Mental Health, Public Social Services, Children and Family Services and Public Health, to strategize on recommendations to improve the delivery of homeless service in Los Angeles County.

"We have learned that permanent supportive housing works, yet fragmented and uncoordinated service delivery systems continue to be a huge barrier for homeless families and individuals trying to successfully transition to stable permanent housing," the Supervisors wrote in their joint motion.

According to the *2009 Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count*, Los Angeles County has made great inroads in its efforts to reduce homelessness. The Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority credits much of the decline to a variety of efforts, including the County's \$100 million Homeless Prevention Initiative (HPI),

the City of Los Angeles' Permanent Supportive Housing Program, and the expanded Section 8 rental voucher program for homeless individuals and families.

The County's CEO recently confirmed the success of the County's HPI, which to date has served approximately 29,000 individuals and over 13,000 families. The HPI required an unprecedented degree of coordination of service delivery across County departments, much of which was overseen by the CEO and, in particular, its Service Integration Branch.

"The County must continue to improve and build upon this momentum of integrated physical and mental health, substance abuse, housing and other social services for those residents who are homeless and at risk of being homeless," the Supervisors wrote.

"As several of the County's HPI programs expend their one-time only funding, we do not want to lose the ground that has been gained. It is important to ensure that ending homelessness remains a top priority and that future homelessness prevention efforts apply the lessons learned from this initial effort."

The County's Chief Executive Office will report back to the board with its recommendations in 30 days.

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